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SUBJECT: SOUTHEAST TURKEY PRESS SUMMARY FOR JULY 11, 2005

This is the Southeastern Turkey press summary for July 11, 2005.

Please note that Turkish press reports often contain errors or exaggerations; AmConsulate Adana does not vouch for the accuracy of the reports summarized here.

POLITICAL, SECURITY, HUMAN RIGHTS

RADIKAL/BOLGE/ZAMAN: A scientific study on stingrays has been started by Harran University in Yumurtalik district of Adana to monitor and collect data about the level of stingray hunting in Yumurtalik and Iskenderun bays. (This article is from the 07/09 and 07/10 editions.)

RADIKAL/ZAMAN: A bus driver, who was carrying 22 passengers, notified Hakkari Jandarma Command upon noticing a mine ambush that was laid nearby Semdinli-Yukseova crossroad. Jandarma had safely defused the mine. The Zaman daily, in contrast, notes that Jandarma that was patrolling the area noticed the mine on the road. (This article is from the 07/09 editions.)

HURRIYET/BOLGE/SABAH(GUNEY)/EKSPRES: Yalcin Akyol, former mayor of Seyhan district in Adana, announced his candidacy, before the Sunday election (June 10), for the new Seyhan district chairperson of CHP (Republican People's Party) in Adana. Akyol asked for the support of party members while firing sharp criticisms at CHP Provincial Chairperson, Serdar Seyhan. Votes by the party members to nominate CHP's Yuregir district chairperson were cast on the same day. The results announced on Monday turned out that the intra party opposition group's candidate for the Seyhan contest, Yalcin Akyol, was defeated, and his rival, Resit Karakus, was reelected. In Yuregir, the sole candidate, Mekin Sahin, was reelected as the chairperson of the district. (This article is from the 07/09 and 07/11 editions.)

BOLGE/ZAMAN: Abdullah Torun, Adana deputy from AKP, dismissed the comments made about him, claiming that "Like (Aytac) Durak, the Adana Mayor, Torun has also become a supporter of (Abdullah) Dogru," who is the AKP Adana Provincial Chairperson. Torun said that he has never supported individuals, but only his party apparatus. (This article is from the 07/09 and 07/10 editions.)

HURRIYET (CUKUROVA): Macit Ozcan, the Mersin Mayor from CHP, complained that the government was not backing his projects and that he was being deliberately ignored by the ruling party to doom his mayoral term in Mersin to failure. (This article is from the 07/09 edition.)

HURRIYET (CUKUROVA): Sofulu Environmental Initiative Spokesperson Zeki Durak showed a video of the Sofulu Garbage Disposal Area in Adana to Osman Pepe, Minister of Environment and Forests, to draw the Minister's attention to the pressing problems of the garbage site. Pepe reportedly pledged to rehabilitate the garbage site afterwards. (This article is from the 07/09 edition.)

BOLGE: Abdullah Dogru, AKP (Justice and Development Party) Provincial Chairperson, addressed the audience at AKP's 13th Provincial Advisory Assembly gathering in Adana. Dogru said that there was not much time to lose with vain discussions about whether to hold earlier national elections, especially at a time when Turkey has achieved stability. According to Dogru, AKP has managed to have the economy, which was struck by successive crises, back on track in 2.5 years. (This article is from the 07/10 edition.)

ZAMAN/OZGUR GUNDEM: Forty-seven members of Diyarbakir's DTH (Democratic Society Movement) Founding Board were announced. Diyarbakir has the second-most numerous board, after Istanbul. DTH Founding Board elections in Van will be conducted on July 17. Zaman notes that former DEP (Democracy Party) deputies drafted the outline of the Democratic Society Party's party charter, which envisages that the language of education in some of the regions will be Kurdish (This article is from the 07/09 and 07/10 editions.)

OZGUR GUNDEM: The paper reports that security officials allegedly set fire to the forests of the Gabar Mountain in Sirnak on July 6 after completing a military operation. Reportedly, the officials are neither attempting to extinguish the fire, which has approached the borders of Akdizgin village, nor have they let anyone to take action against it. (This article is from the 07/10 edition.)

HURRIYET/OZGUR GUNDEM/ZAMAN/RADIKAL: Three soldiers in a

military vehicle died when a remote control bomb allegedly laid on the road by the PKK terrorists exploded in the Semdinli district of Hakkari. 15 soldiers were wounded as a result of the blast. Separately, the paper reports that a large-scale military operation was launched in the rural section of the Kurtalan district in Siirt and 150 military vehicles have recently been deployed there. (This article is from the 07/10 editions.)

HURRIYET/OZGUR GUNDEM: The number of people in Bingol who have contracted anthrax increased to 42. The health officials report that some people are still not heeding officials' warnings and continuing to eat contaminated meat. Meanwhile, as the prices of meat fell sharply, butchers of Bingol delivered 80 kilograms of meat for free to the people ensuring that the meat was from healthy sources. (This article is from the 07/10 and 07/11 editions.)

CUMHURİYET/OZGUR GUNDEM: A ferryboat arriving at Van accidentally hit the wall of the wharf as it was maneuvering to get closer to land. Thirty-two people were wounded in the accident. (This article is from the 07/10 editions.)

OZGUR GUNDEM: DEHAP Central Executive Board member Alican Onlu filed a complaint alleging that the police officers had conducted a search in his house in Onlu's absence four days ago in Tunceli. The police reportedly conducted a raid on a house belonging to other DEHAP members as well and detained DEHAP Provincial Chairperson Murat Polat and a DEHAP member. (This article is from the 07/10 edition.)

ZAMAN/HURRIYET: A brucellosis epidemic is currently affecting the Pinarli hamlet in Adiyaman province. Twenty-one people were reported as contracting the disease. The hamlet is under quarantine now and health officials are taking precautions to treat the affected people and stop the epidemic from spreading. (This article is from the 07/09 and 07/10 editions.)

EKSPRES/BOLGE: Adana's Chamber of Agricultural Engineers warned farmers against purchasing fake agricultural pesticides currently circulating in the market.

BOLGE/HURRIYET (CUKUROVA)/EKSPRES: The cultural section of the Turkish Embassy in Damascus organized a historical and cultural trip for thirty-five journalists from Syria, Jordan and Lebanon. The journalists paid their first visit to Adana. The group will be visiting Mersin, Nevsehir and Konya provinces as well.

HURRIYET (CUKUROVA): A boulevard in Gaziantep was named after Syria's city of Aleppo to mark the improving relationships between Syria and Turkey. The Gaziantep Mayor and Aleppo Mayor attended the opening ceremony of the boulevard.

HURRIYET (CUKUROVA): Adana Rotary Club President Bulent Paksoy said that the construction of the ARTEM (Community Education and Training Center) will be completed in October and will begin to operate to alleviate the social, economic and cultural problems in Adana.

OZGUR GUNDEM: Feleknaş Uca, member of the European Parliament, is currently attending the 4th Culture, Arts and Tourism Festival in the Dogubeyazit district in Van. Uca noted here that the EU had started to discuss issues on how to resolve the Kurdish issue. Uca further said that the intensifying conflict in the southeastern Turkey was starting to concern European parliamentarians, and members of the Parliament would be conducting studies in the region in the coming days to generate a report.

YENİ SAFAK/RADIKAL/OZGUR GUNDEM/EVRENSEL: A bomb and gun attack by alleged terrorists on a police position in front of the subgovernor's office at midnight wounded 3 police officers in the Hozat district of Tunceli. In a separate incident in Sirnak, a truck hit an explosive on the road and 7 people were wounded as a result of that.

OZGUR GUNDEM: A total of 40,000 signatures have been collected during a campaign that was organized by the Mardin DEHAP provincial party organization to voice the people's demand for education in their native language.

CUMHURİYET/OZGUR GUNDEM/EVRENSEL/YENİ SAFAK: An explosion caused by an unknown reason occurred at the house of a village guard in a hamlet of Hizan district in the Bitlis province. (Note: Only Cumhuriyet and Yeni Safak papers in contrast note that the explosion was caused by a bottled gas used conventionally for cooking in Turkey. End Note.) Fifteen members of the family were wounded and nine of them were in serious condition. Jandarma started to investigate the matter.

YENİ SAFAK: Ambassadors from various European Union countries, such as Estonia and Belgium, as well as officers of the British and Austrian Embassies, attended the 7th Tatvan Crater Lake festival and joined in the local folkloric dances of the local people.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENTS:

11. ZAMAN: A 60-person group of Syrian businessmen and senior members of Syrian chambers of commerce came to Iskenderun district of Hatay and visited "Istex 2005 Industry and Commerce Fair." The group showed interest in the industrial products section. The group also visited the stand of Aleppo's Chamber of Commerce and Industry in the fair. (This article is from the 07/09 edition.)

REID